

BANDWAGON



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Fred D. Pfening, Jr., Editor

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

The litho used on this issue's cover was designed by the Strobbridge Lithograph Co. for the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

This design of the baby giraffe is a 12 sheet, but other sizes were also used. It was used in 1916 and probably a couple of other years also. Original in the Harold Dunn Collection.

SCHLITZ MILWAUKEE PARADE DEFINITE FOR 1973

Robert A. Uihlein, Jr., President of the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company, announced that the Milwaukee July 4 circus parade will be held as usual in 1973.

This good news clears any concern about the parade being discontinued due to Chappie Fox leaving the Circus World Museum, in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Dick Sparrow and his 40 horse hitch will again be featured in the big 1973 event.

The dates set for the Old Milwaukee Days will be June 29 through July 4. The train will roll from Baraboo to Milwaukee on June 29, 1973.

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SEND IN YOUR CHRISTMAS ADS

The big Christmas issue of the Bandwagon is traditionally one in which many people extend season's greetings.

The cost of the various sized ads is listed in the masthead on page two.

Please send your ad copy and checks to the Editor prior to December 1, 1972.

SCHLITZ LITHOGRAPH COLLECTION DONATED

It was announced on October 17, 1972 that the collection of circus lithos purchased by Schlitz from the estate of the late Lee Allen Estes, has been donated to the Circus World Museum. They have been on loan to the Museum since being purchased a few years ago.

Included are 2,275 circus posters covering the period from 1880 to 1925. Five small pony circus wagons were also in the collection. These had been built for the V & H Circus

The 1972

CHS Convention

The library of the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin was the site of the 1972 convention of the Circus Historical Society. Members who gathered there on August 4 and 5 experienced a new concept in conventions. Instead of the usual round of business meeting - bull session - banquet this year's convention was constructed on the lines of an historical research workshop, brainchild of President Reynolds.

Unfortunately, President Reynolds was ill and unable to attend his own innovation in CHS gatherings. The vice president greeted the members. Friday morning, August 4 two presentations were made. The first was by Stuart Thayer on early show movement and the second by Robert Parkinson on photo identification and on original art of circus lithographs. Friday afternoon the library was thrown open to the research efforts of the members, ably assisted by the staff. On Friday evening movies from the CWM collection were shown.

Saturday morning saw four more papers presented. Richard Flint on early Flatfoot animal expeditions, Fred Dahlinger, Jr. on calliopes, Fred Pfening III on the Orchestral wagon and Tom Parkinson on correspondence from the William P. Hall records. On Saturday afternoon Robert Parkinson showed a large group of lithographs from the collection climaxed by a huge 48 sheet Sells Brothers litho just recently restored by John Lentz. That evening members and their wives gathered for dinner without the formalities of a banquet. Some 40 people sat down to this closing event of the convention.

The new format was welcomed and spoken well of by those attending. Participation in the question periods following the papers and in the individual research session was gratifying to the organizers of the convention.

Robert Parkinson and his library staff (Dan Draper, John Lentz, Dick Flint and Bill Metzger) were very accommodating and a large measure of the credit for the success of the meeting must be given to them. The papers presented at the convention will be published in forthcoming issues of the *Bandwagon*.

CHS BUTTONS AVAILABLE

A newly designed Circus Historical Society membership button is now available to members. It is 3" in diameter and is red with the CHS name and the two hemisphere bandwagon in black. A clear window in the center allows the member's name and membership number to be typed.

Only 500 of the buttons have been made and they are available on a first-come basis to CHS members only.

The cost is only 50¢ and they are available from Julian Jimenez, CHS Secretary-Treasurer. Send name and membership number when ordering.

THE GREAT TENTED R. R. CIRCUSES ARE GONE, BUT THEY LIVE AGAIN IN 8MM MOVIES OF FAMOUS CIRCUSES OF THE PAST — 1937 TO 1956

For complete description and prices send stamped, address envelope to: —

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CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.,

Julian Jimenez, Treas.

Receipts and Disbursements for the period May 1, 1971 thru April 30, 1972.

Bank Balance, May 1, 1971 \$ 6,329.26

Receipts:

Members	\$ 8,857.00
New Members	949.50
Subscriptions to Bandwagon	1,791.05
Sale of back issues	1,027.43
Advertising	531.50
Convention Registration	\$ 1,193.84
(And cash advance)	
Convention Expenses	1,194.75
(And cash advance)	
Net Loss on convention	(.91)
*Returned Checks collected and redeposited	24.50
	13,180.07

Disbursements:

Bandwagon Printing	8,192.73
Bandwagon Postage	325.00
Bandwagon Mailing	210.00
Addressing Machine & Supply Co.	129.29
Other postage	305.00
Treasurer Supplies	54.03
Printing Membership cards	90.88
Secretary Expense	64.84
President Expense	10.23
Flowers	17.24
Audit fees	25.00
Membership Sheets	41.75
Envelopes	412.30
Election Expense	85.18
Printing Membership Applications	38.86
Treasurer Bond	25.00
File and transportation	
from Iowa to Kansas	68.54
*Checks Returned	24.50
Collection Expense (Foreign checks)	.73
	10,121.10

Income over disbursements 3,058.97
Bank Balance April 30, 1972 \$ 9,388.23

-Evelyn D. Runyan
Public Accountant

Famous Circus Landmarks

The Circus Winterquarters in West Baden, Indiana

By JOSEPH T. BRADBURY

Indiana, the Hoosier State, famed in circus history for giving birth to so many shows and for being the winter home of many more, again provides the locale of this installment in the series of famous circus landmarks. The setting this time is in the southern part of the state, in the hill county, often described as the loveliest section of Indiana. The beautiful twin cities area of French Lick and West Baden Springs, spaced a mile apart, long famed as a major health spa and resort which in the first quarter of this century saw some of the nation's finest hotels, spas, and casinos was the setting for a little over a dozen years of some of the top circus winterquarters activity in the land. This is the story of the old West Baden quarters which from 1915 to 1928 served as the winter home of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus and later John Robinson, both major railroad shows of their day.

Despite the historical importance of the West Baden quarters circus researchers have been frustrated for the unexplained lack of photographic coverage and detailed data on the place. The late William H. Woodcock, who was in West Baden for a short time prior to going out with Hagenbeck-Wallace for the 1922 season, once expressed his frustration at the great dearth of photos and other information about the quarters and even to this date only one reasonably complete set of photos has ever turned up



Photo No. 1 — Edward Ballard. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Ballard.

— the Karl K. Knecht set taken in 1923. Woodcock opined that perhaps the scarcity was due to the popularity of the larger and better known quarters in Peru, further north in the state, which in marked contrast there are hundreds of photos, maps, charts, grafts and every conceivable

kind of data on Peru but sadly enough all of the photographers, fans, and researchers seemed to neglect West Baden and consequently very little exists today that can give us a complete and accurate picture of the considerable circus history West Baden provides.

The story of the West Baden quarters revolves around the life of the late Edward Ballard, a home town boy who made good and struck it rich in the traditional American fashion. Known everywhere by his friends and associates as Ed this friendly, kind, and generous man made his name in the circus and business world and left his mark on his community which has not been forgotten to this day.

Ed Ballard was quite young when he went to work for Lee W. Sinclair, who owned the West Baden Springs Hotel and was one of the two mighty powers of the West Baden-French Lick resort area. Thomas J. Taggart, who owned the French Lick Springs Hotel a mile away, was the other local powerhouse and it was Taggart and Sinclair who put this community on the map. Ballard began his career with Sinclair as a helper in the hotel's bowling alley. His rise was spectacular and before long he was associated with the Brown Club at French Lick, one of the top gambling casinos in the midwest. In time Ballard would own Brown's and a mass fortune. Ballard invested wisely in real estate and

Photo No. 3 — Panorama view of the main building complex of the Circus Winterquarters at West Baden, Indiana in April 1923. The office building is at the far right. Note the large wagon shed in center of the photo and seen behind it the roof of

in back. This photo was taken as Hagenbeck-Wallace was making final preparations before start of the 1923 season and is the best shot to turn up picturing the old West Baden quarters. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.

the ring training barn. Edward Ballard's home was located off the photo on the right several hundred feet from the first building shown. Note one of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Knox tractors on the gravel road in foreground and a couple of 8 horse hitchers



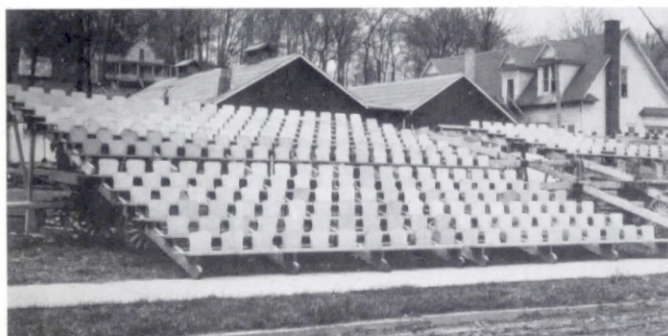


Photo No. 4 — This view of the West Baden quarters taken in April 1923 shows the area immediate to left of the main building complex. Hagenbeck-Wallace personnel are in process of weather proofing the show's canvas just prior to the 1923 season. Note the 3 Curtis built canvas spool wagons in background. The small structure in center background is the polar bear house. Two canvas covered tableau wagons (or cages) are on the loop road to right of the photo. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.

other interprises. He also had a taste for showbusiness and circuses in particular and in 1913 he entered that picture for the first time by becoming a major participant in a syndicate which purchased the well known Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus.

After a costly and near disastrous winterquarters flood at Peru in the spring of 1913 Ben E. Wallace decided to dispose of his show and sold it at Albany, N.Y. on June 11, 1913 while it was on tour. The purchasers were a rather large group of investors which organized the Carl Hagenbeck and Great Wallace Shows Co. with headquarters in Indianapolis. Heading the new firm was John O. Talbot, President, Edward Ballard, vice president, and C. E. Corey, secretary-treasurer. Corey was a nephew of Ben Wallace and became the road manager and provided most of the circus know-how for the group. Other members of the syndicate included Louis Davenport, owner of the Hotel

Photo No. 5 — Two of the new Curtis built seat wagons at West Baden quarters winter of 1920-21. In background at the right is the office building and in center another of the quarter's structures. The houses on the hill in background are not believed to have been part of the quarters. Bill Woodcock Collection.



Davenport in Davenport, Iowa, Charles Hagaman, John B. Warren, H. L. Harrison, and Crawford Fairbanks, owner of a brewery in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The show made arrangements with Ben Wallace and rented the Peru quarters for the winter of 1913-14. Some members of the group by 1914 had sold out and gradually most of them would leave with their interests being purchased by Ballard. By the end of 1914 it was evident that Ballard was headed for full control of the show. The show was in quarters at the Carthage Fair Grounds near Cincinnati during the winter of 1914-15 but there is indication that possibly some of the stock, probably baggage horses, may have wintered at one of Ballard's farms near West Baden. The following was recorded in the 1914 Hagenbeck-Wallace route book.

"This show will winter at the Carthage Fair Grounds, near Cincinnati, Ohio and on Mr. Ed Ballard's farms near West Baden, Ind. Mr. C. E. Corey, the general manager will continue to reside at Peru, Ind. and that city will remain the general offices of the show, and all business mail should be addressed there."

During the 1915 season Ballard took over the controlling interest of the show and all investors with the exception of Crawford Fairbanks left the firm. C. E. Corey did remain as general manager and travelled on the road with the show. Although Ballard would make frequent visits, sometimes staying a few days or a week, he never actually travelled with show, leaving the day by day routine management to Corey and those who succeeded him. This was Ballard's practice throughout the years he was in circus business.

By the summer of 1915 Ballard had accumulated considerable real estate holdings in the West Baden area and he



Photo No. 2 — Edward Ballard's Home at West Baden, Indiana. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Ballard.

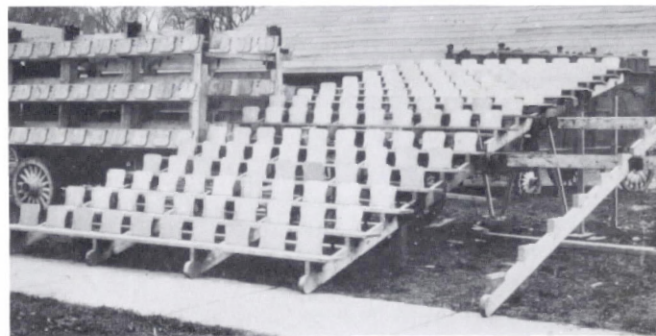
felt he could establish adequate quarters for the circus there and it would be a big boost to the community to have a major railroad show in its midst for the winter. Preparations were made to establish quarters so as to receive the show upon conclusion of the 1915 season.

The site selected for the main quarters was located about half way between West Baden and French Lick and the various structures would be built a short distance behind the new home Ballard was building which was located on the east side of the main road linking the two towns. Both the home and quarters were completed about the same time.

Mr. Charles E. Ballard, son of Ed Ballard, and currently living in Peru, Ind. has been most helpful to the author in the preparation of this article and recently very kindly described the new mansion and quarters his father built in 1915. Charles Ballard grew up with the circus quarters in his backyard and has fond memories of his young days in West Baden. An elephant was named for him, the famous "Charley Ed". Unfortunately young Ballard lost a leg due to a pony cart accident while playing in the winter-quarters.

Charles Ballard says there was a tract of about 100 acres of land in the im-

Photo No. 6 — The Capt. William H. Curtis patent seat wagons at the West Baden quarters winter of 1920-21. They were used for the first time by Hagenbeck-Wallace during the 1921 season. The quarters' wagon shed is in background and note just to rear of the section of seats a portion of the old Carl Hagenbeck Ceylon tableau wagon. Bill Woodcock Collection.



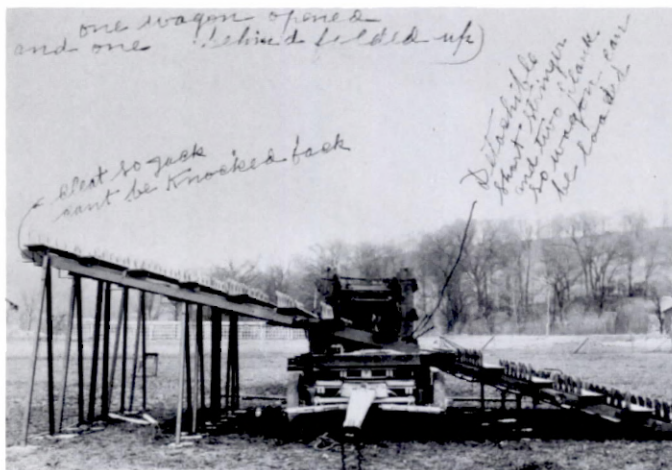


Photo No. 7 — Detailed photograph with explanatory notes penciled in one of the Curtis built seat wagons at West Baden quarters winter of 1920-21. This photo was taken in the open area just to left of the main building complex and hill in background is one that was located immediately to one side of the quarters area. Bill Woodcock Collection.

mediate vicinity of the home and quarters. The home was a beautiful structure, colonial style, built of hand made bricks and had imported marble fireplaces from France and fountain and statuary from Italy. Black walnut panelling was from Germany and Ballard acquired objects of art, furniture, fine paintings, and rare antiques from all over Europe. The mansion had twelve acres of landscaped gardens, ponds, and shade trees. The entire home, landscaping, and furnishings were valued at several millions of dollars.

Immediately behind the mansion was the area where the winterquarters was built and ample buildings, sheds, and shops were erected to house the entire show with the exception of the baggage horses which were pastured on an 1109 acre farm Ballard owned which was located about eight miles from town. The buildings of the quarters were located about 150 yards or more to rear of the Ballard home and covered an area approximately two city blocks. Across the road from the main building complex were several acres of fenced in pasture land and adjoining this and located near the main West Baden-French Lick road was a large open field which was the show lot which the circus used to set up on when it exhibited in its home town.

The Karl K. Knecht cartoon sketch pictures the overall locale of the area with location of the Ballard home, circus winterquarters, the major hotels, casinos, rail facilities and other points of interest pointed out.

Although there are no known photos showing the quarters before 1923 it is believed they were pretty much the same when initially built in 1915. From existing photographs there appears to have been at

least eight buildings, seven of which appear in photo no. 3 to have been grouped rather close together. The sketch map pictures the seven buildings in the group and although we have no detailed information as to the activity of each it is obvious building no. 1 served as the office and no. 3 as the wagon storage shed. No. 5 should be the ring training barn. The animal barn shown in photos 10 and 11 according to eyewitnesses was located 100 yards or more away from the rest of the buildings and does not show in photo no. 3. The polar bear quarters are pictured in photo no. 4 and were located a short distance from the gravel road which looped off to the right from the main building complex. What structures existed other than those shown in the photos is not known.

Tho Forstall, who was at West Baden quarters for three winters, 1926-28, recalls most of the buildings were not too large and were of wooden construction with exception of the main animal barn which was mostly brick and well headed by steam. He said the office in which he worked was located only a short distance down the hill from Mr. Ballard's big brick house, obviously the building marked no. 1 in the sketch.

The railroad car shops were located on the Monon Railway which ran across the street from the Ballard home and the snow's rail equipment was stored on sidings near the shops. No sidings were ever run off the railroad into the main quarters site. Charles E. Bennett, who lived in Bedford, Ind., 1911-26, often visited the West Baden quarters and recalls that the railroad car shop was across the street and down about 250 ft. or more from the Ballard home. He remembers the shops as being rather small and noted that in the early years when the show had only wooden cars these would be sent to the Monon shops in LaFayette, Ind. to be repaired during the winter and actually not too much work was done on them in West Baden other than repainting and probably re-decking. However there were car shops erected by the show in West Baden and



Photo No. 8 — Scene at West Baden quarters just prior to the 1923 season opening of Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. This view was taken from a corner of the wagon shed looking across the open area to the left of the quarters. In far background is seen the canvas laid out for weather-proofing including the 3 canvas spool wagons. A variety of wagons are shown including on the left the big top pole wagon. The little house at top left of the photo is the polar bear quarters. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.

served as long as the quarters were in existence. The show would load and unload on a siding near the quarters with only about a quarter of a mile haul at most.

The West Baden-French Lick community had good rail facilities. The Monon had a branch which ran from Orleans off the main Indianapolis-Louisville line into the town and provided sidings near the French Lick Hotel for the parking of private cars which were plentiful during the early 1900's. The Southern Railway had a branch coming in from Huntington off the main Louisville-St. Louis line. With these fine rail connections the shows wintering in West Baden had excellent routes to move in any direction it desired. Many seasons would see Louisville as the first stand after leaving West Baden.

When the quarters were ready to receive Hagenbeck-Wallace upon conclusion of the 1915 season they were fully adequate to accommodate the large railroad show which according to the Havirland files had travelled on 53 cars that season. (These being of course 60 ft. wooden cars). The animal barn could accommodate a dozen or more elephants, an equal number of other lead stock, and up to 20 or more road cage dens of wild animals. Blacksmith, carpenter, and paint shops were equipped to provide the necessary services for a show of this size and the wagon storage shed could provide shelter for the vehicles. There were offices, wardrobe storage and work areas, dormitories for the quarters crew, a cook-house, in short a full and complete winter-

quarters had been built by Ballard for his show and West Baden would become the winter home of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus for the next nine years.

In 1916 Ballard purchased the West Baden Springs Hotel from the daughter of Lee Sinclair who had died a few years earlier. This magnificent structure was known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World" and truly it was just that. There was no place like it. The story of this fabulous building has recently been told in a booklet, "Biography of a Hotel" by Gregory S. Gatsos and is highly recommended for all interested in the story of Edward Ballard and West Baden Springs. The hotel's remarkable architecture was highlighted by a huge dome which covered the inner Pompeiian Court, or Atrium. During the winter season when the show was in quarters a circus ring was erected in the center of the court and performances were staged for the hotel's guests. During several months immediately following World War I the army took over the hotel as a convalescence center for wounded soldiers and circus performances were staged in the Atrium for their enjoyment. Karl Knecht recalls seeing a steel arena erected and wild animal acts presented as part of the performance. During the normal winter season Ballard's circus was a main part of the resort's social life and entertainment. Visitors were welcomed at the winterquarters and according to observers no admission charge was ever made. The town was friendly to circus people and troupers who have wintered there recall it to have been a very pleasant spot which they enjoyed.

In addition to owning Brown's Casino, the West Baden Springs Hotel, and Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, Ballard acquired fully a thousand acres of land in and around the resort area. He had now replaced Sinclair as one of the twin kings of the place and he and Tom Taggart re-

mained the top hob nobs of the day. Ballard was a Republican and Taggart had been three times Democratic mayor of Indianapolis but they got along perfectly and were the best of friends even though rivals for the tourist's dollars which in those lush days were plentiful and enough to go around for both. Ballard's gambling affiliations did not jeopardize his relationship with the community. His club was geared strictly for the tourist's dollar and for those who could afford it and throughout his lifetime he was held in the highest esteem by the local populace, many of them employed by him in his various interests.

On Oct. 26, 1916 Hagenbeck-Wallace played West Baden for the first time and the natives got their first real look at the show. This was at the conclusion of the 1916 season but from then on each spring saw the show either having its official season opener in the city or a dress rehearsal before it left on its annual tour. Some route sheets don't list the opening West Baden date but in any event all canvas was erected, rehearsals held, and a performance given for the local populace.

In 1916 and 1917 the Hagenbeck-Wallace show did well and according to the Havirland lists travelled on 57 cars. In 1918 with the nation well into World War I the number of cars was cut to 49. The 1918 season which at the onset was hampered by wartime restrictions, a shortage of help, and disruption by the draft, was soon to see the show deep in tragedy. On June 22, 1918 at Ivanhoe, Indiana, near Gary, the second section of the train hauling mainly the sleeping cars was struck in the rear by a speeding empty troop train resulting in the worst circus rail disaster in history. Some 68 lives were lost and many more injured. This tragedy is still recalled by old troupers whenever they gather to talk of the past. Although the season was resumed and completed the show's operating company found itself in deep financial trouble although Ballard personally remained financially sound. He had paid very promptly the heavy claims



Photo No. 22 — The West Baden Springs Hotel at West Baden, Indiana. This "Eighth wonder of the World" was owned by Ed Ballard from 1916-34. Karl K. Knecht Collection.

due to the wreck which are said to have been in excess of three hundred thousand dollars. The entire season was disastrous and heavy debts and claims forced it into receivership in the fall. Only Ballard and Crawford Fairbanks remained as stockholders in the company. The show came back into West Baden quarters and was advertised and sold at a receivers sale on Dec. 28, 1918. Some rather startling news came out of the sale and the events behind the scenes were not known for some time. The Jan. 4, 1919 Billboard told the story of the sale as follows:

"MUGIVAN AND BOWERS BUY HAGENBECK-WALLACE. Show sold at Receivers Sale at French Lick, Ind. \$36,100 reported as price paid by new owners. Ed Ballard retires from Amusement Business.

"A surprise was sprung in the circus world Saturday, when, at a receivers sale at French Lick, Indiana the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus passed into the hands of Jerry Mugivan and Bert Bowers,

Photo No. 10 — Elephant and manpower backing Hagenbeck-Wallace Cage No. 6 to the animal barn at West Baden quarters to load the beasts just prior to start of the 1923 season. Observers say that the animal barn which was the best built structure of the quarters was located some distance from the main building complex. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.

Photo No. 9 — Animals being loaded into Hagenbeck-Wallace Cage No. 7 at West Baden quarters just prior to start of the 1923 season. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.



owners of the John Robinson Circus and the Howes Great London Shows.

"The sale was conducted Saturday afternoon December 28 at the French Lick Springs Hotel, sealed bids being presented. The price paid by Mugivan and Bowers, it was understood, was \$36,100 dollars and it is the general opinion that these enterprising showmen secured a bargain. The second bid was that of John Ringling. There were several other bids on the property but none was offered by Ed Ballard, former owner of the majority of the stock in the circus corporation.

"The Carl Hagenbeck and Great Wallace Show Co. which operated the circus was put into the hands of a receiver, John R. Ward, several months ago and the announcement was made that the property would be sold. At that time the opinion seemed to obtain among circus people that Mr. Ballard or some of the other stock holders would bid in the show, but it was generally understood by Mr. Ballard's friends that he would retire from the circus business which took up a large part of his time and devote himself entirely to his large hotel and other interests.

"No statement was made by Mugivan and Bowers as to their plans for the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, but it is thought that they will continue its operation under the same title and use about the same number of cars as in the past few seasons.

"The circus was sold in its entirety, good will and trade name and property which included twenty-five flat cars, twelve stock cars, two advertising cars,

Photo No. 11 — Animals being transferred from the menagerie barn at West Baden quarters into one of the Hagenbeck-Wallace road dens just prior to start of the 1923 season. This cage with three den compartments is the design which Bill Curtis would use in the major construction project of new Hagenbeck-Wallace cages (and other American Circus Corporation units) beginning in the winter of 1924-25. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.



one store car, eight sleeping coaches, one private coach, horses, ponies, ten elephants, six camels, five hybrid zebras, six lions, buffalo, two ostriches, six monkeys; thirty six parade wagons, including twenty-one wild animal cages; fifty-five baggage wagons, three canvas spool wagons, two pole wagons, two stake drivers, two dynamic lighting plants, one complete gasoline lighting system, two 45 horse power Knox tractors, one patented gasoline cooking system, one complete set of blocks, poles, and seats, harness for 220 head of horses."

Ed Ballard, despite the story was far from retirement in circus business. In fact for the next ten years he would become one of the giants in the business. If Ballard had had any serious thoughts of retiring he cancelled them when Mugivan and Bowers entered the picture. Their purchase of the property had been part of a maneuver and Ballard entered into active participation with them in their various circus enterprises. In 1920 Mugivan, Bowers, and Ballard formed the American Circus Corporation which became the holding company for all of the various circus operating companies they owned. Stock in the corporation was divided equally among the three.

The winterquarters property in West Baden did not figure into the deal and Ballard maintained personal ownership of it. Some financial arrangement was made to compensate him for use of the quarters which housed one of the trio's shows thru the winter of 1927-28.

In the meantime Bert Bowers took over the management of Hagenbeck-Wallace in 1919 which continued to winter in West Baden. The show was reorganized, cut to 30 cars, and did great business during the post war boom seasons of 1919 and 1920. For the 1920 season the show was equipped with new 70 and 72 ft. steel flat cars and stocks from the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Co. and was the first of the Ballard, Bowers, Mugivan, shows to receive these new cars. The show continued on 30 cars as long as the trio owned it.

During the winter of 1920-21 while

Hagenbeck-Wallace was in West Baden quarters William H. Curtis, the show's superintendent and mechanical genius, designed and built new mechanical seat wagons and the show went out with them for the 1921 season. The show had earlier been equipped with canvas loading spool wagons which Curtis had developed when he was with Sells-Floto.

When Hagenbeck-Wallace first came to West Baden to winter the show carried a number of very elaborate parade and cage wagons of both Great Wallace and Carl Hagenbeck origin. Especially ornate were several long and highly carved cages Ben Wallace had put on his show years ago. These cages as well as many of the band and tableau wagons gradually disappeared from view while the show was in West Baden being replaced by newer and less decorative vehicles. Bill Woodcock says during the time he was in West Baden just prior to the 1922 Hagenbeck-Wallace season he noted in the animal barn that three of these long cages minus their wheels and gears had been placed on the floor to house the animals in quarters while the road dens were being repaired. One of these was the 22 ft. Great Wallace lion den with the elephant carvings in center. (See photo 17). Woodcock at the same time also saw on the grounds a pile of wood ashes and iron and was told it was where the little Eagle chariot wagon, long a feature of the Hagenbeck-Wallace parades, had been recently burned. (See photo 16). He remarked that the former Carl Hagenbeck Ceylon tableau wagon was in quarters at the time under a shed but that it didn't go on the road for the 1922 or subsequent seasons and its fate is unknown. Although the Carl Hagenbeck Elephant tableau wagon had been on the road in 1921 Woodcock says it was not in quarters and he could not find out what had happened to it. Other former parade wagons which

Photo No. 12 — Rolling up canvas on one of the Curtis built spool wagons of Hagenbeck-Wallace after weatherproofing at the West Baden quarters in April 1923. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.





Photo No. 13 — Loading Hagenbeck-Wallace baggage wagons at West Baden quarters immediately before start of the 1923 season. This photo shows wagons parked to left of the wagon shed. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.

faded from sight while the show was quartered in West Baden were the huge Great Wallace chariot bandwagon and the Carl Hagenbeck steam calliope. Tradition has it that both were destroyed in wrecks of the show about 1917 but details are lacking.

Ben E. Wallace, owner of the large Peru, Ind. quarters died April 8, 1921 and on October 27 the same year his estate sold the quarters to the American Circus Corporation. Although for the past few winters the corporation's John Robinson Circus had wintered in Peru it had done so through a rental agreement with Wallace. At that time actually the Peru quarters could only comfortably house a single show but soon after the corporation took title to it work started on enlargement and improvements so that in time it would be able to house three large railroad circuses. In the meantime the corporation shows were scattered at various quarters. For example during the 1921 season four shows had been on the road and that winter they went into four separate quarters; John Robinson to Peru, Hagenbeck-Wallace to West Baden, Sells-Floto, Denver, and Howes Great London and Van Amburg, Montgomery, Ala.

Jerry Mugivan retired from active management of the John Robinson Circus following the 1921 season but Mr. Bowers continued with Hagenbeck-Wallace on

thru 1924. Ballard of course did not travel nor was in any active managerial capacity of any individual show but remained strictly with the high level American Circus Corporation.

At the conclusion of the 1924 season a somewhat unusual happening took place. Hagenbeck-Wallace went into quarters at Peru while John Robinson was sent to West Baden. Reasons for the switch are not known to the author but speculation on the matter can give several possible reasons.

During the winter of 1924-25 there was scheduled a major rebuilding job on the physical equipment of Hagenbeck-Wallace, the primary task being the construction of about 13 new cages by Bill Curtis on a style which in time would be used on most of the cages of the American Circus Corp. shows. These were the now famous Curtis cages with the well known design using two, three, or four arches to separate the individual dens. This large construction and reno-

Photo No. 14 — Hagenbeck-Wallace on the lot at West Baden, Indiana, opening day 1923. Left to right is shown the sideshow, marquee with menagerie just behind it, and big top. All new canvas was used and show made a beautiful sight set up on the lot for the first time in the new season. This lot was an open field to left of the main building complex and located near the main road connecting West Baden and French Lick. Less than a quarter of a mile away were the railroad runs where the show would load to move to Louisville, Ky. for the next stand. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.



Photo No. 15 — Loading the Hagenbeck-Wallace flat cars in the West Baden rail yards as show prepares its first move of the 1923 season to Louisville, Ky. Loading runs were a short distance for the show's winterquarters. Photo by Karl K. Knecht.

vation of Hagenbeck-Wallace could be done better in the more spacious and superior equipped Peru shops. Another possible reason for the switch of quarters was the managerial changes which took place for the 1925 season. Mugivan had wanted Bowers to retire ever since he had quit actual road management and be more available for top level duties. So for 1925 Dan Odom who had been manager of John Robinson in 1924 became Hagenbeck-Wallace's road boss while Sam B. Dill who had been Odom's assistant in 1924 was given the top post with John Robinson.

The switch of John Robinson to West Baden had practically no change in the normal routine of winterquarter work, except that show still had the old style 60 ft. wooden flat cars and this necessitated more work in that department. Both Hagenbeck-Wallace and John Robinson travelled on 30 cars and although H-W could carry more wagons on their 70 ft. flats still both shows were practically the same size physically.

John Robinson continued to winter at West Baden for the next three winters. As the show was still parading regularly in 1924 it brought to West Baden that winter its compliment of parade vehicles. Although not intending to parade in 1925 the show did restore the parade after about a month and put into use





Photo No. 16 — Hagenbeck-Wallace Eagle chariot tableau wagon ready to leave lot for parade, season 1915-17. This beautiful little wagon which was long a feature of the Hagenbeck-Wallace parades was burned at West Baden quarters winter of 1921-22. Photo by W. Hope Tilley.

some of the parade equipment but following the season all parades were cancelled. As was true with Hagenbeck-Wallace a number of John Robinson parade vehicles faded from view while the show was in West Baden. A few such as the old Dode Fisk tableau were converted to baggage wagon use and remained on the show but the old Forepaugh wagon was dismantled and the fate of others is uncertain.

Theo Forstall recalls that when he was in West Baden during the winters with John Robinson that Mr. Ballard would often drop in the office to exchange pleasantries but that he never interfered in the regular routine business affairs handled by Manager Sam Dill or other officials. Forstall terms Mr. Ballard as a very fine and likeable person who was good to all who worked for him. He said Ballard thought a lot of Sam Dill but wasn't too hot on Louis Chase, the new John Robinson manager who replaced Dill after the 1927 season, a thought shared by many according to Forstall.

The Spring of 1927 in West Baden was an exciting time for those attending the Circus Fans Association second annual national convention which was held to coincide with the season's opening of John Robinson. Quite a number of CFAs were there and Karl Knecht said Mr. Ballard was a gracious host throwing a large party at the West Baden Springs Hotel for the fans as well as entertaining them royally at the John Robinson opening.

While John Robinson was on the road during the 1927 season a fire broke out on Sept. 25 at the West Baden quarters and destroyed a number of buildings. It seems the fire was quite serious and did considerable damage but strangely

enough it didn't cause much of a stir and not a line could be found about the fire in a recent search of the local newspaper

Newspaper advertisement for Hagenbeck-Wallace stand at West Baden-French Lick, Indian, Oct. 26, 1916. Collection of Joe Bradbury.

WEST BADEN-FRENCH LICK

THURSDAY, 26.
OCTOBER

HAGENBECK-WALLACE CIRCUS

THE WONDER SHOW
THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU NEVER SAW BEFORE!

ALL NEW AGAIN! ALL RIGHT AGAIN!

A CIRCUS GATHERED FROM 18 NATIONS.
USED FOR CAPITAL INVESTED
6 ARENAS \$3,000,000

3 RAILROAD TRAINS—5	YOU	60 RIDERS—60
22 TENTS—22	HAVE	60 AERIALISTS—60
8 BANDS—8		500 HORSES—500
400 PERFORMERS		200 ACTS—200

3 HERDS OF ELEPHANTS **3 NEVER WITNESSED A CIRCUS LIKE THIS.** **400 WILD ANIMALS**

CARL HAGENBECK'S ZOOLOGICAL PARADISE

World's Greatest Trained Beasts
Performing in a Massive Steel-Grated Arena. The Wild World, Civilized and Uncivilized, Ransacked to Augment and Complete what is now the **Biggest Zoo On Earth**

THE GREAT WALLACE CIRCUS DE LUXE **50 CLOWNS 50**
(INCLUDING PIR THE MONSIEUR)

Only Circus With Trained Wild Animals

Biggest and Best Holiday in All the Year

WONDERS, NOVELTIES, FEATURES FROM EVERY LAND

<p>OSCAR LOWANDE First person in history of the world carrying a somersault from one running horse to another.</p>	<p>FLYING WARD Daring and sensational aerial artist. Performing in dome of world's biggest tent.</p>	<p>SIX CEYENES Most dangerous performance on left double aerial wire in earth's history.</p>
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3-MILE GALA, GOLDEN STREET PARADE 10 A. M.
ALL COMES ILLUMINATED BY electricity at night.

DOORS OPEN AT 1 AND 2 P. M. PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 2 AND 4 P. M. ONE ON THE 27 ADULTS TO ALL CHILDREN UNDER 12.

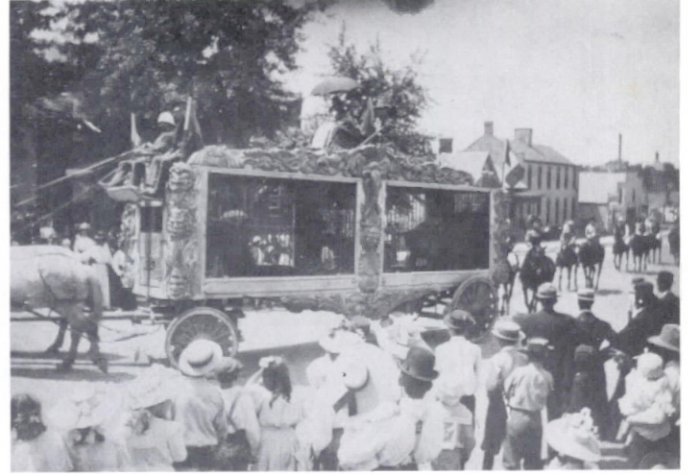


Photo No. 17 — The 22 ft. Great Wallace lion den, was heavily carved and used for many years by the Great Wallace and later Hagenbeck-Wallace shows. This photo shows the den in parade about 1910. Note the huge elephant carvings in the center panel. Later the den had its wheels and gears removed and served as permanent cage quarters in the menagerie barn at West Baden quarters. Joe Bradbury (Melvin) Collection.

files. Others with the show don't recall it, nor does Forstall, but it is more understandable since they were on the road at the time. Charles Ballard remembers it and recalls that the office, wardrobe, and animal barn did not burn and that all of the damaged buildings were soon replaced but he doesn't remember any details of how it started.

Ed Hollis recently found this short notice in The Paoli (Ind.) Republican dated Wed. Sept. 28, 1927-

"A bad fire occurred on the show-grounds at West Baden last Saturday entailing a loss of several thousand dollars. Five buildings, consisting of workshops and barns were totally destroyed. The show is still out making its circuit and as it will be several weeks before time for it to return to winterquarters it is probable that there will be time to erect new buildings before it returns."

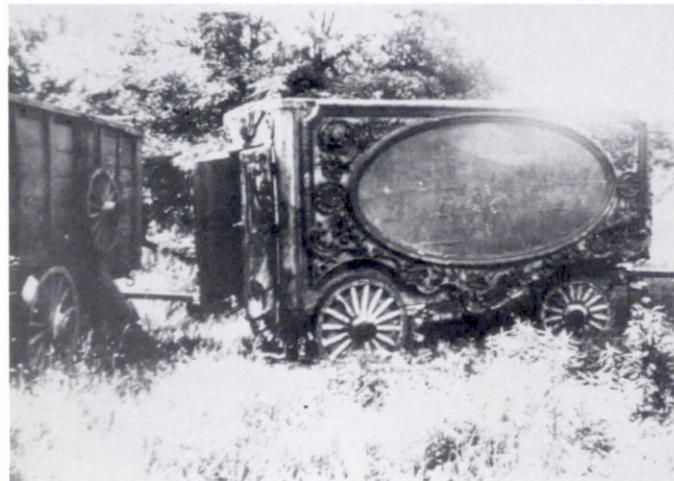
The January 1928 White Tops had a little more details concerning the fire.

"JOHN ROBINSON CIRCUS, West Baden, Ind. Dec. 15 — All evidences of the disastrous fire which swept winter quarters in September while the show as on the road are now obliterated. The buildings destroyed, included the blacksmith and wagon shop, paint shop, wagon sheds, hay storage barn and smaller storage buildings. These have been replaced by more commodious, better arranged buildings. Construction work has been completed, and the new shop machinery is now being installed by the manufacturers' mechanics. All buildings have heavy concrete floors and ample window lights. The new machinery will be operated throughout by electric motors.

"Egypt Thompson, asst. manager, has a gang of 30 men and several teams busy filling in the ground around the car shop and sidings raising the track level some four feet and making stone roadways allowing easy access to all storage tracks. Bob Thornton and Carlos Carreon are hard at work in the ring barn. They are breaking a new 12 horse liberty act with cream colored horses. This will give the show three 12 horse acts for one number. Theo Schroder and Capt. Bert Noyes are busy at all times around the animal barn. While actual breaking of the new wild animal acts has not been started, daily workouts of the old acts are in order. A recent battle to the death among the polar bears attained wide newspaper publicity. The dead bear, Murphey, has already been replaced. Capt. Noyes has trained one of his elephants to act as caddy on the golf links, not only to carry the clubs as does a human caddy, but likewise the player if he feels inclined to climb on "Sadie's" head and ride from hole to hole. Among celebrities stopping at the big hotels, who have recently tried out the elephant caddy innovation and have pictures to prove it are John T. McCutcheon, the Chicago Tribune cartoonist, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle and Irene Castle (Mrs. McLaughlin). Miss Castle became very popular with the residents of the elephant barn and the monkey cages as on each daily visit she brought a huge sack of the delicacies relished by these animals.

"Earl Bapty, boss props, on the road, is for the fourth season the winter quarters purchasing agent and general

Photo No. 19 — Two wagons of the 1929 Gentry Bros. Circus in the wagon graveyard at the old West Baden quarters. This undated photo was probably taken about 1933 and shows a baggage wagon and a former Ringling tableau wagon which was used on the Floyd and Howard King railroad shows in period 1925-29. The area these wagons are located appear to have been between the building complex and the hill just to right of them. Fred Pfening Collection.



utility man assisting Manager Sam B. Dill in many ways. John Eli "Frenchy" has the cookhouse as usual and Theo Forstall is keeping the office typewriter from rusting up in the winter time."

From these notices it would seem the fire was pretty severe and destroyed many of the quarter's buildings. Tradition has long held that the fire destroyed two famous John Robinson parade wagons used during the early 1920's. These were the former Norris & Rowe, 101 Ranch, Howes Great London 1921 etc. highly carved bandwagon and the former Yankee Robinson, Howes Great London 1921 steam calliope. John Robinson had carried both of these wagons during the 1924 season and shortly afterwards they fade from sight causing many historians to accept the fire theory.

Photographs are not available to determine the nature and extent of the rebuild at West Baden following the fire but in any event it appears from the White Tops article and Charles Ballard's testimony that the quarters were rebuilt and modernized and were fully adequate and ready to receive the John Robinson Circus when it came in following the 1927 season.

As mentioned previously Louis Chase replaced Sam Dill as manager of John Robinson for the 1928 season. Unlike the fun days of the 1927 season opening the 1928 beginning was a nightmare. Heavy rains caused Lost River to flood and the rapidly rising waters engulfed the show set up on the West Baden lot. Only quick work by the show's personnel prevented a real disaster but even so considerable damage was done to the equipment, although no real damage was done to the quarters installations. The show had only recently been equipped with new all steel 70 and 72 ft. flat cars from McVernon and was using them for the first time in 1928. It managed to load out okay and move on to its next stand but a few days later the train was involved in a derailment in Kentucky although the damage was not very large. The 1928 season was a rough one for the show and upon conclusion of the season

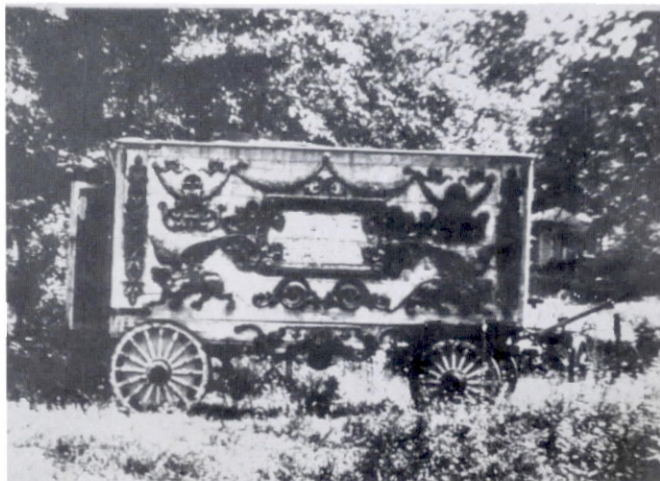
it was sent into quarters at Peru rather than West Baden.

The specific reasoning behind the move to Peru is not known to the author but again we can speculate. Forstall says that Mugivan was greatly displeased with the way Louis Chase had let the show run down and he wanted it in Peru under his watchful eye and he soon replaced Chase with Jess Adkins. Another possible reason is that the Peru quarters had been further enlarged and it was felt it would be best to house all three of the American Circus Corporation units which consisted of Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck-Wallace, and John Robinson there. Forstall says that shortly after the close of the 1928 season he and Egypt Thompson were sent down to West Baden to get out the office files and other stuff from the wardrobe shop and other buildings that had been left there when the show went out in the spring as at that time they expected to return there in the fall.

Thus after nine winters the West Baden community found itself without a circus in its midst. However, there would still be some circus activity at the old quarters before finis could be written to them.

During the fall and early winter of 1928-29 the American Circus Corporation purchased both the Sparks and Al G. Barnes Circuses and for the 1929 season put on the road a total of five railroad shows rolling a total of 145 cars. Ed Ballard, the local West Baden boy made good, now was a kingpin in the corporation controlling all of this circus which even surpassed John Ringling's 90 cars on his single show. However the days of the pinnacle were numbered as in September

Photo No. 20 — Tableau wagon used by the 1929 Gentry Bros. Circus in the wagon graveyard at West Baden quarters. Photo was probably taken about 1933. This was a former Ringling tableau wagon which was used by Floyd and Howard King on their railroad shows in period 1925-29. The house shown at top right of the photo appears to have been one on the hill adjacent to the main quarters complex. Fred Pfening Collection.



1930 and Bowers in January 1936. John Ringling followed Ballard in death by only a few weeks.

Ballard's body lay in state in the Atrium of his former great hotel and funeral services were conducted by the Jesuites for their generous benefactor with entombment in Ames Cemetery, two miles north of West Baden.

Charlie Ed Ballard recalled to the author a short time ago that his mother soon proceeded to dispose of all of the Ballard holdings in the West Baden area and by late 1937 everything, all real estate and other properties including the old quarters site, had been sold.

In time the former West Baden Springs Hotel was sold by the Jesuites and in 1967 became Northwood Institute. Although considerably remodeled inside the great Atrium is still a part of it and those who visit it to this day still marvel as did it's first viewers in 1903. The Ballard home is now the Beechwood Christian Church but retains it's former outward appearance. All of the former quarters buildings are gone and much of the site is occupied by a modern shopping center.

Regretably, West Baden's circus heritage has mainly vanished with time. Few are the natives who can even recall the days it was the winter-quarters of one of America's top circuses. Circus historians have long had a fascination for the West Baden area mainly because of mystery revolving around the fate of the wagons of the Gentry Bros. Circus which were shipped there in the fall of 1929. It is believed few, if any, of the 18 baggage wagons advertised for sale by Donaldson in the spring of 1930 were ever sold, at least not to other circuses or carnivals for show purposes. What finally happened to them? Photos printed here show a number of these wagons, including a couple of former Ringling Bros. parade wagons the Gentry show had, resting and rotting away in the West Baden "wagon grave yard". Probably they were moved from the Ballard property after it was sold, if not before, but where? Were they burned? Dismantled? Or were some of them sold to farmers or others and conceivably still be stored back in old barns or sheds in the area? About 20 years ago when the author made a nationwide survey of old circus wagons still in existence many rumors came in that there were still old wagons in the West Baden area but nothing definite could ever be learned and certainly no old wagons there ever turned up. However thru the years the rumors persist. In April 1972 Ed Hollis, who is a funeral director in nearby Salem, Indiana, had a funeral at Amer Chapel where Ed Ballard is buried and during the time he was there talked to an old timer and mentioned that he had been in the area several times searching for information about the former circus quarters. The old timer then told Ed that about three years ago (about 1969) he saw several old

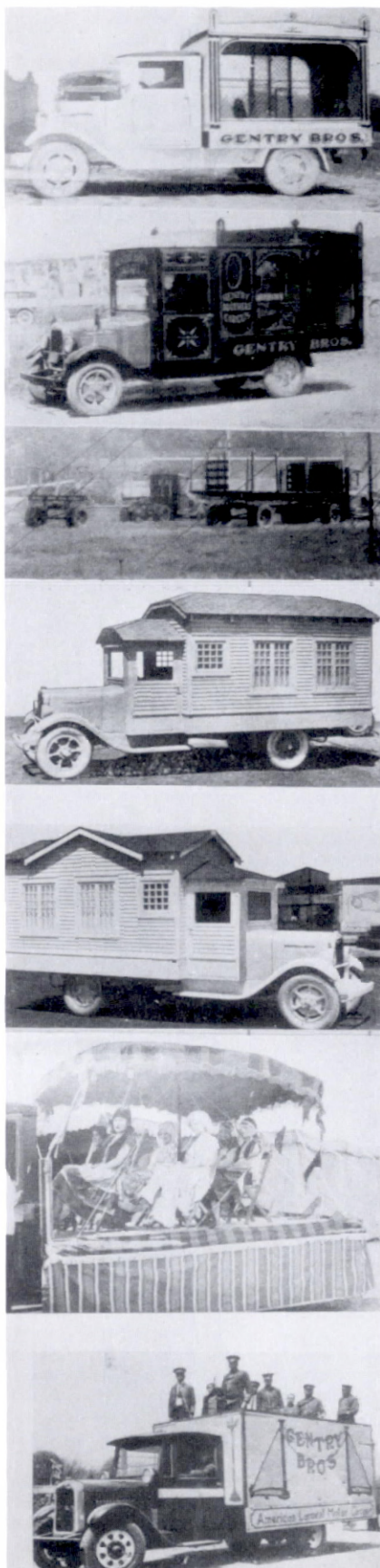


Photo No. 23 — Parade vehicles of Sam B. Dill's Gentry Bros. Circus, season of 1930. Dill framed this show at the West Baden quarters winter of 1929-30 and the show opened its initial season there. The parade went down the main West Baden-French Lick highway giving the natives their last look at a show quartered in the area. Joe Bradbury Collection.

show wagons sitting on a hill side out in the country. Ed is still trying to trace down this story and remarks that he has heard this wagon story so many times but has always run into a stone wall. While Hollis was in Orange County, Indiana (West Baden area) in July 1972 an antique dealer said that someone was in her place a week ago and wanted to sell a circus wagon that "went on a railroad car". She does not know who he was or where he was from and has no detailed description of the wagon.

Don Smith over the years has made numerous trips to the West Baden area attempting to get information about the old quarters and shows that wintered there but was never able to locate very much. Some years ago there was one building which supposedly had been part of the winter-quarters but this is now gone. Awhile back Don talked to an antique dealer in West Baden who told him that as a girl she had lived across the street from the loading runs and remembered watching the show load the trains and had also visited the quarters to see the horses and animals. She said it was the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus she had seen loading out, however, she said the wagons and trains were all painted Yellow which would indicate it was the John Robinson Circus instead. The local newspaper publisher told Don that the town had a civic festival in 1964 and had thought of a circus theme but that they were unable to dig up anything of value. The publisher who's files unfortunately have not been micro-filmed and are quite brittle says he has been thru them several times searching for circus items but never found anything other than just routine news such as "The circus train returned to West Baden today after a good (or bad) season and performers have scattered to their homes for the winter while wagons and trains are repaired at the quarters."

I am most appreciative to the help given by a number of people in preparation of this article. Especially would I like to thank Charles E. Ballard, Ed Hollis, Charles Bennett, Fred Pfening, Jr., Don Smith, Gordon Potter, and Karl K. Knecht.

Photo No. 24 — Cage and baggage trucks of Sam B. Dill's Gentry Bros. Circus, season of 1930. This show featured new GMC motors and custom built vehicles and was framed at the West Baden quarters. Joe Bradbury Collection.

THE GIRAFFE IN THE AMERICAN CIRCUS

By CHANG REYNOLDS

Animals in the family *Giraffidae* have probably been used by man for exhibition purposes for more than two thousand years. However, after the fall of the Roman Empire and the onset of the Middle Ages, there occurred a period of several hundred years during which this animal disappeared from the history of western Europe. Then, after the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century the giraffe was introduced into the zoological collections of the west; and ten years later into the traveling menageries of the United States.

There are but two genera, *Giraffa* and *Okapia*, in this most interesting family of animals, and each contains but a single species. While the many races of *Giraffa camelopardalis* are native to most of Africa south of the Sahara, except for great rain-forest regions, the single race of *okapia* is found only in those same rain-forest areas from which the giraffe is excluded.

It seemed, at one time, that each new expedition to Africa returned with skins and skeletons of this animal which were identified as new species by the taxonomists, but in recent years various re-examinations of the evidence have resulted in all being placed as separate races of the single species, *G. camelopardalis*. Approximately eight races seem to be valid, with only four usually seen in zoological gardens and circuses. Even these are difficult to distinguish due to interbreeding, but, in general, they can be assigned to the Nubian (northern), the reticulated, the Uganda or Baringo, and the Masai races.¹

Aside from the attractive markings, the long, prehensile tongue, and the large soft eyes, the one physical feature which is most noteworthy is the height of these animals. The most reliable evidence indicates that a male may achieve between fifteen to seventeen feet in height while the female may reach between thirteen to fourteen.² It should be stated that there is little valid evidence on this subject. The same is true of the weight of these animals, although it has been stated that an adult male may weight as much as two tons, while the female often weighs about three to four hundred pounds less.³

The unusual physical structure of this animal with its great weight strung out on long limbs, a small body, and long neck, is marvelously fitted for its life in the acacia forest-grassland regions of Africa. However, it is almost a guarantee of a

In 1864 Van Amburgh & Co., under the management of Hyatt Frost, claimed to have the only living giraffe. This herald is typical of the style used by circuses in the 1860s. Pfenning Collection.

death warrant when a captured animal is transported. John Clayton, who arrived in the United States with two giraffes from South Africa in 1838, reported that he had originally captured eleven. Seven died during the trip to Cape Town, and two died after reaching that port; one from an injury received during loading.⁴ One of the two that reached this country fell and broke its neck the following year.⁵ James A. Bailey lost a giraffe at sea when he took his show to England in 1887.⁶ Sturtevant has reported that the Forepaugh Show of 1875 was to receive eight giraffes which, after landing in New York, were consigned to the Central Park Menagerie. Within weeks all of them died there.⁷ Forepaugh secured another animal; toured with it during the season, but lost it in October while still on tour.⁸ The deaths of other giraffes of the past century while touring with menageries has been recorded. This rather dismal picture has not improved a great deal in the Twentieth Century.

The transportation of giraffes has continued to plague circuses during the past seventy years. Often this problem has been incident to loading and unloading, and the frequency of deaths on the lot while on tour may be related to this necessary feature of circus logistics. When the Chrysler-Smithsonian Expedition returned to Boston in 1926 it had lost a giraffe and five zebras on the voyage; in 1925, E. S. Joseph lost a giraffe en route from Calcutta; and when Howard Bary sent four giraffes with the five so-called pygmy elephants in 1936 the voyage almost turned into a disaster. Three of the four giraffes died on the trip as well as two of the elephants.⁹

Despite losses during shipment, some notable successes have been scored. During the late 'twenties and 'thirties, Christopher Schulz had several deliveries which included giraffes and other African animals. In 1926, Schulz successfully landed two male and two female giraffes.¹⁰ The following year, after a rough passage, with some losses, he brought three male giraffes and one female to this country.¹¹ The next year, he again landed five giraffes, a rhino, and other animals.¹² The next large

VAN AMBURGH & CO'S MENAGERIE

—AND—
GREAT MORAL EXHIBITION.

HYATT FROST, ————— MANAGER.

AN ENTIRELY NEW COLLECTION OF ANIMALS,
Including representatives of almost every range of animal life, in the most desirable manner that is possible.

LARGEST TRAVELING EXHIBITION ON THE GLOBE.

WILL EXHIBIT AT
ALTON CORNER, Thursday the 18th; LACONIA, Friday the 19th;
BRISTOL, Saturday the 20th; FISHERVILLE, Monday the 22d;
and CONCORD, Tuesday the 23d of August, 1864.
AFTERNOON AND EVENING. DOORS OPEN AT 11 AND 7 O'CLOCK.

THIS HASTY COLLECTION OF
LIVING BEASTS AND BIRDS
Has been carefully selected from the most famous zoological gardens and menageries of the world, and is the only one of the kind ever exhibited in this country.

AND ESPECIALLY INSTRUCTIVE TO THE RISING GENERATION.



GIRAFFE

Rarest Representatives
of the
ANIMAL KINGDOM
EUROPE,
ASIA,
AFRICA,
AMERICA.

Having been bred and reared in the most healthy and natural manner, and being perfectly tame and docile, they are well adapted for exhibition.

THE AUSTRALIAN Bird Show,

A variety of extraordinary Fowls by SHIRAZI TRAINED ANIMALS, including
Performing Elephant Tippos Saib,
PROFESSOR LANSBURY'S
TRAINED LIONS AND TIGERS!
AND PERFORMING POLIES, MONKEYS, AND WILDS.

THE GRAND CARAVAN COLOSSAL GOLDEN CHARIOT

BRASS BAND!

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Notwithstanding that this is a much LARGER and more COMPLETE Menagerie than has ever before traveled the country, and notwithstanding that the prices of nearly every thing under the Daily Signatures of this Menagerie Establishment almost double those of ordinary times, the Management, determined to give THE GREAT EXHIBITION WITHIN THE REACH OF EVERY ONE, announce that Tickets of Admission will be placed at the EXTREMELY LOW PRICE of only
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS!

Notwithstanding that every man, woman and child in the community will find it well to visit the GREAT EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF NATURE, it is to be remembered that the prices of nearly every thing under the Daily Signatures of this Menagerie Establishment almost double those of ordinary times.

Published & Sold by J. B. Frost, Printing Establishment, New York, General, N. Y.

shipment by this man arrived in 1934 and included three giraffes.¹³ One of the largest shipments of African animals ever delivered in Boston was accomplished by Schulz and his son, Walter, in 1935. Included in this aggregation were eight giraffes.¹⁴ Still another shipment arrived in 1936 and it included seven giraffes.¹⁵ Although it is not known how many animals were lost on these trips, it could be said that Christopher Schulz was a very successful importer. Unfortunately his methods of loading, crating, securing on the ship, feeding during the voyage, and other techniques which contributed to the safe arrival of this large number of giraffes are unknown. His base of operation for most of this period was Arusha, Tanzania, and it can be assumed that his specimens were of the east African races of giraffe.

The Nubian giraffe from the Sudan appeared in western Europe in 1826 through the efforts of French scientists collaborating with the Pasha of Egypt.¹⁶ This source was closed near the end of the century by the revolt of the Mahdi, but by that time Carl Hagenbeck had established a game-catching station in Tanganyika from which he shipped giraffes.¹⁷ This closure of the Sudan also resulted in the importation of the first giraffes from South Africa to European zoos.¹⁸ With the exception of the two World Wars there has been little to interrupt the demand for African stock, although, since the giraffe can be successfully bred in captivity, there have been periods when the demand for wild specimens was limited.

As far as can be determined, the first birth of a giraffe in the United States occurred at the Cincinnati Zoological Garden on October 20, 1889.¹⁹ This is not a zoological first since those giraffes brought to London in the early days of the Nineteenth Century did produce calves.²⁰ The first birth of a giraffe on an American circus occurred on January 14, 1910.²¹ The place was Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the parents were "Mary" and "Fritz" of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. A calf was born on this show in quarters on March 2, 1914, and another in January, 1916.²²

On the whole, the breeding of giraffes in the large circuses and zoos of this country was a successful project increasing in scope until mid-century when the traveling menageries was eliminated from the Greatest Show On Earth. However, by that time this animal had been on display in American menageries for well over a century.

It all began as a result of an incredible journey to the vicinity of the Kalahari Desert by John Clayton,

THE GIRAFFE.

The fine specimen in my Animal Conservatory stands nine feet two inches high, and was captured in the spring of 1871, in Central Southern Africa, and was with great difficulty brought to the coast for shipment. One of my agents writes: "After maneuvering for several months in the midst of some hostile



tribes of natives, we succeeded in capturing a beautiful calf Giraffe. After arranging every thing for our homeward trip, we learned, with great dismay, that we were about surrounded, and that it would be impossible to pass through the lines with our prize, and escape capture. On the evening of the third day, while we were preparing our suppers, the natives rushed in upon us in such numbers and force that we were compelled to quietly surrender. We were all made fast with thongs made from giraffe-skins, and kept in this condition, without any thing to eat, for twenty-four hours.

"The natives commenced celebrating our capture by drinking nong-poo, a sweetish juice taken from the Palmyra palm, and allowed to ferment, and is intoxicating, like our champagne. They gave us their Captive Dance first, followed by the Feast Dance, and more nong-poo, until the second night, when I discovered that they were all beastly drunk, and they reminded me of the 'bad man with a bad eye.'

"About nine o'clock, I found that, by making a little effort, I could get my hands unfastened; and as the Chief and his inebriated braves and our watchers were fast falling asleep, I conceived the idea of making our escape. About midnight I arose carefully, and passed around to my companions, unloosed their fastenings, and, getting our ponies and Giraffe, started off quietly on our line of march. After getting about a mile from the scenes of revelry and debauchery, we started on a gallop, which we kept up night and day for two hundred miles, only stopping to water, and to occasionally refresh ourselves, until we arrived at Bang-a-pora, a village of friendly natives and missionaries, where we stopped for one week to rest. Our Giraffe stood the fatigue much better than our horses. At the end of the week we started for Cape Town, where we arrived without molestation in twenty-one days' travel."

The expense of getting this valuable animal to the United States will be about \$10,000 in gold, and I doubt if there will ever again be brought to this country so beautifully marked and strange a species of the antelope tribe.

This illustration appears on page eight of the 16 page John Robinson Advance Trumpeter, a courier booklet used during the 1873 season. The description of the capture is probably true. Pfening Collection.

working, it has been stated, for Rufus Welch. The year was 1836, the season of the first large shipment of giraffes from the Sudan to England.²³ The account of Clayton's journey is vividly described in a courier published in 1839 for Welch's giraffe exhibition. In essence it reported that during the years 1835-1836, Clayton collected eleven giraffes and

reached the United States on June 7, 1838, with two of them and some African antelope.²⁴ This event is termed incredible by this author for at least four reasons: (1) the obvious supply for giraffes at this time was Cairo, Egypt; (2) only a few scattered records indicated that there were giraffes in the vicinity of the Orange River and one wonders if these reports were available to Clayton; (3) apparently no giraffes were brought from South Africa to Europe until many years later; (4) the months spent by Clayton in South Africa occurred during a period of great unrest tribes were resisting the British-

Boer movements and the Great Trek was about to commence. It this event occurred as described in the Rufus Welch courier in 1839, it surely must rank as one of the outstanding animal collecting expeditions of all time.

Who was John Clayton and how great was his contribution to the American menagerie? Undoubtedly the use of the giraffe in the United States as a menagerie exhibit dates from the arrival of Clayton's giraffes. This writer would suggest that either Clayton or Welch could be responsible for the giraffe exhibits in Philadelphia (October 11-20) and Washington, D.C. (November 5-6) that year of 1838.²⁵ It seems that Clayton might be the manager of the tour of the "Giraffe or Cameleopard" exhibit through many of the southern states that winter. The animal was in New Orleans by December 3, 1838, and left that city on the 12th of January, 1839, for Grand Gulf, Natchez, and Vicksburg.²⁶ It arrived in Natchez on January 18 and remained there until the 23rd.²⁷ One factor in tracing this exhibit was the continued presence of Mr. Nellis who appeared with it in a separate pavilion. The giraffe and Mr. Nellis were at Louisville, Kentucky, by April 26 and remained there until May 2.²⁸ It is interesting to discover that apparently at the time this giraffe was enroute on the Mississippi River in January, a second giraffe was on exhibit in Savannah, Georgia.²⁹ Whether this could be the second of Clayton's giraffes making a tour of the coast before joining the Welch show in New England or a taxidermist's specimen on another outfit remains to be seen.

At the end of April 1839, the New York Circus and Arena Company exhibited a giraffe in Baltimore, and on July 24 had the animal before the public of Huntington, Pennsylvania.³⁰ Clayton was the manager of this outfit when it exhibited a giraffe and Mr. Nellis in Louisville, Kentucky, September 2-5, and Selma, Alabama, November 28, 1840.³¹ This writer was unable to find a record associating Clayton with the New York Circus and Arena Company in 1839. However, his association with it in 1840 would indicate a possible connection the previous year. One last giraffe exhibit by Mr. Clayton has been located. This occurred at Augusta, Georgia, at the end of March, 1840, before his association with the New York Circus and Arena Company.³²

At what point Rufus Welch became directly involved with the exhibition of a giraffe is not clear. However, it is certain that he had one of the animals on his show in Rhode Island in mid-May 1839.³³ This animal died as a result of an accident near Newark, New Jersey, in November of that year.³⁴ This may well have been the



ONLY LIVING GIRAFFES
(GIRAFFA CAMELOPARDUS)
In America are in my possession, and can be seen only in my
GREAT MORAL AMUSEMENT COMBINATION!
On account of their expensiveness and the great difficulty of keeping them alive while being transported to, or remaining in this country, they are justly regarded by the public as THE RAREST OF ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS, and undoubtedly constitute the crowning feature in even my marvelous Zoological collection. At different times, and a cost of over
One Hundred Thousand Dollars!
I have imported not less than seventeen of these superb creatures; all but three of which have succumbed to the rigor of our climate. Fortunately the survivors are among the most majestic and beautiful of their princely race; and it may be said without exaggeration, that a view of them is, of itself, well worth the price of admission to my GREAT TRAVELING WORLD'S FAIR.

This illustration appears in the P. T. Barnum Advance Courier for the season of 1875, also claiming to exhibit the only living Giraffes. Pfening Collection.

only season that Welch had a giraffe with his show, although this great proprietor may have been involved with the outfits that Clayton managed during the latter's brief career.

The Zoological Institute, the nations largest menagerie, was also attempting to obtain giraffes at this same time. Through the efforts of the American counsel at Cairo a giraffe was obtained by the New York outfit for exhibition in 1839.³⁵ This probably was the giraffe exhibited at Peale's Museum and Roche's in March and April that year.³⁶ On May 6-7 it was exhibited by June, Titus, Angevine & Co. at Newark, New Jersey; in late May at Springfield, Massachusetts; on June 10-11 at Albany, New York; and on August 28-29 at Rochester, New York.³⁷ The following year a single record exists for West Chester, Pennsylvania on October 13, while 1841 is marked by exhibits of a taxidermist's specimen at Bridgeton in mid-May and Newark in early June.³⁸ That the Institute must have had another giraffe at this time is revealed by the fact that about the same date as the Newark exhibit there was also an exhibition by June, Titus, Angevine

& Co. at Portland, Maine.³⁹ The route book for the Western Division of this organization lists a giraffe keeper among its staff in 1842.⁴⁰ This outfit left Elizabethtown, Ohio, on April 21 and apparently carried its giraffe for some distance along the route. However, it should be noted, that when this show reached Rochester, New York, for a three-day engagement at the end of September, the giraffe was no longer mentioned.⁴¹

Confusing the record of giraffe exhibitions by the Zoological Institute was the exhibition in many places of the preserved, or taxidermist's specimen, of a giraffe. It was stated in the newspapers that "shortly after shipping it died, the proprietors sustaining a loss of some \$20,000 but the animal being so extremely fine and full grown, it was thought proper it should be preserved in the most natural and perfect way . . ."⁴² This collection of animals was stated to have belonged to the New York Zoological Institute. In 1839 this preserved specimen was exhibited at Macon, Georgia, in January.⁴³ It returned to that city at the end of that year and remained for a few days in January, 1840.⁴⁴ On August 1 and 3, 1840, it was on exhibit in Rochester, New York, and later that month in Coburg, Ontario.⁴⁵ Near the end of October it was displayed in Woodstock, Vermont.⁴⁶

Nearly a decade passed before another such animal appeared in the United States. In 1850, G. C. Quick & Co., exhibiting in Rochester, New York, advertised a giraffe, while five years later a giraffe was on the combination circus and menagerie belonging to Seth B. Howe and Myers and Madigan.⁴⁷ Advertisements in the author's collection indicate that the circus of Myers and Madigan joined with the S. B. Menagerie in 1855 and included in this aggregation of wild beasts were a giraffe and a rhinoceros. This combined outfit appeared at Towanda on May 21 and Harrisburg on October 12, both Pennsylvania.⁴⁸ The dates indicate that the giraffe remained on the show for the entire season but no record has been found for ensuing years unless this was the animal advertised by Driesback & Co. in 1857.⁴⁹

Strangely enough, two circuses imported giraffes during the Civil War years. Van Amburgh & Co.'s Menagerie added one, plus several other foreign species, on September 10, 1863.⁵⁰ The news account reported this as the "fourth one ever imported." Thus, within twenty-five years the record had become confused. This animal apparently continued with the Van Amburgh Menagerie through 1867 and may have been replaced by another delivered in 1868.⁵¹ However, advertising during

P.T. Barnum's first giraffe display occurred in 1835. O'Dell, the historian of New York City entertainment, mentions that two enormous specimens were on display in the Chinese Rooms in early September and later became a part of Barnum's Museum.⁵⁸ Whether they were alive or taxidermist's specimens is not clear. In 1872 Barnum's Greatest

The Great European Zoological Association of 1877 was owned by the Sells Bros. This newspaper ad shows a giraffe, but no mention of one is made in the reading matter. Pfening Collection.

As would be expected, the Ringling brothers added a giraffe to their menagerie when the show was developing to a quality equal to the other big outfits of the day. "Mamie," the first Ringling giraffe, appeared in the menagerie in 1893; was advertised as "the last giraffe" in 1895; died en route to Spencer, Iowa, on July 2, 1896. The remains were prepared for shipment to the Field Museum, Chicago, on July 4 at Mason City.⁶⁸ Apparently this circus did not exhibit a giraffe until 1901 when it obtained one individual at Washington, D.C., on May 6.⁶⁹ By 1903 the World's Greatest Show was exhibiting two of these animals and in 1906 advertised "a family of full-grown giraffes." These were probably imported since there is no record of birth on this show at this time. Disaster struck the herd and in mid-

A detailed black and white illustration of a rhinoceros standing in a grassy field. The rhinoceros is facing left, with its head slightly turned towards the viewer. It has a large, textured body and a prominent horn. The background shows some distant trees or hills under a light sky.



The only full grown ones ever seen in the United States, 22 feet high and broken to drive under rein, drawing a gorgeous Chariot which cost \$4,000.

THE GIANT RHINOCEROS.
Believed to be the Biblical "Unicorn." He weighs 12,000 pounds and is the most formidable of all the terrible brute creation. The folds of his skin are nearly two inches thick and resists the force of an ounce bullet.

THE GIANT OSTRICH,
Full 8 feet high, the largest of the Bird kind and an enormous monarch among his fellows. He is the fastest on foot of the feathered tribe and his plumage is especially valuable for commercial purposes.

The only and original P. T. Barnum's
Gen. Tom Thumb & Wife,

The Smallest Married Midgets on Earth. A farewell tour of America previous to their retirement to private life. They are accompanied by their Eleanora Chariot "QUEEN MAB" and team of Equine Atomies.

20 RACING CAMELS AND 20 DROMEDARIES,

Working in harness, single, double, tandem and in platoons. Towering like mountains with peaks above the drove are

2 GIANT BLACK and 2 SNOW-WHITE SACRED CAMELS

GIANT GIRAFFES IN HARNESS.

THE GIANT SEA LION, "DICK,"
He weighs over 1200 pounds and is distinguished from the School of Aquatic Animals which surround him because of his prodigious size. Capt. Mullett, the veteran hunter and capturer, says he is the only genuine Sea Lion ever exhibited, that he has captured all which have been placed on exhibition and knows this to be true.



By 1881 the Barnum & London Circus told of 22 ft. high giraffes, trained to pull a chariot, in their herald. The illustration in the center of the herald shows a giraffe in harness. Pfening Collection.

became the parents of a calf which at first was named "Hank" but later the youngster's name was changed to "Henrietta" which was more in keeping with her sex. This calf was born at Madison Square Garden on April 7.⁷⁶ During these years since 1936 the Ringling-Barnum show was placing only three giraffes on display in the menagerie. It will be remembered that in 1941 these animals were exhibited on a platform which gave the observer a rather strange perspective.

The three animals on tour in these early war years were "Henrietta," "Andy," (Andre), and "Edith" (Soudana). However, disaster struck at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1942 when fire consumed the menagerie. The holocaust destroyed many animals including "Henrietta" and "Andy." A replacement was found in nearby Toledo, and this male, "Shorty," finished the season with "Edith" as the giraffe display.⁷⁹ He not only carried on as a member of the group on tour, but also sired a calf which was born in the Boston Garden on May 20, 1946. The female parent was "Edith" while the youngster was named "Boston."⁸⁰

During the years at mid-century, there were several changes in the members of the Ringling-Barnum giraffe herd. The show began to transport three giraffes again in 1948 and there were a few calves born and some animals lost. Two reticulated giraffes were purchased by the show in 1950 and in 1951 a female calf, "Gloria," was born in Boston, Massachusetts.⁸¹ Another calf, "Michilene," born in 1954, died the next spring while being trained to enter a special den for transportation. A male calf "Robert," born as the show was ready to leave Sarasota in the spring of 1956, was sent to a wild animal ranch in Florida in

October, 1958.⁸² The Ringling-Barnum show continued to display giraffes in its menagerie at Madison Square Garden as late as 1964 but no menagerie was taken on the road after its final, aborted tenting season.

Several other circuses have displayed giraffes on occasion. As mentioned above, the American Circus Corporation received four of these animals in January, 1927. Research indicates that the Sells-Floto and John Robinson Circuses each carried two during that season. Col. Sturtevant has written that there were six imported, two for each of the Corporation shows - the other two going to Hagenbeck-Wallace. The two animals on the Sells-Floto Circus did not survive very long and both of the John Robinson giraffes died on tour in 1928.⁸³

This author's research does not indicate a giraffe on the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus between 1907 and 1933. Apparently two specimens were in that menagerie during the earlier year and in 1933 the show added a pregnant female while exhibiting in New York City in June.⁸⁴

The Great Forepaugh Show advertised their "performing" giraffes on this color picture card used in 1879. The card is 3" x 5" and is printed in full color. A description of their performance is printed on the back. Pfening Collection.



February 1906 the Milwaukee Public Museum received two female specimens from Baraboo.⁷⁰ The next year, at the Chicago opening of the circus, the menagerie contained two giraffes and this duo were with the show in 1908. In early March, 1910, additional giraffes were received, but one of these died in January, 1911, and the skin and skeleton were sent to the Milwaukee Public Museum.⁷¹

At one period during World War I as many as three of these animals were on display in the Ringling menagerie. During the early years of the 1920's three giraffes were carried on tour.⁷² On July 20, 1924, "Mary," one of the giraffes, died on the lot at Aurora, Illinois.⁷³ It was about this time that advertising described "Annie," the tallest specimen in the Ringling-Barnum herd. In late December, 1926, Louis Ruhe imported five giraffes of which four went to Sells-Floto and one, a male, was shipped to the Ringling-Barnum quarters.⁷⁴ As the third decade of the century approached, this big organization had at least six giraffes; four carried on tour and two on loan to the New York Zoological Park.⁷⁵

The Ringling-Barnum show maintained the four giraffes on display throughout 1933. However, there were some changes in the make-up of the group. A calf, named "Andre" after the giraffe attendant Andrew Zingraben, was born on tour in the summer of 1932.⁷⁶ However, one animal died during the 1934 tour and this brought the total on display to three. In 1936, when the so-called pygmy elephants arrived, one giraffe out of four survived the voyage. This was the famous "Edith," or to use another name she often bore, "Soudana." This female was trained by Woska in the spring of 1937 to be led by her halter.⁷⁷ Many will remember her performance at the end of the "spec" during those years. It was unique enough to ensure her transfer to the Al G. Barnes - Sells Floto outfit with the other Ringling-Barnum features in 1938.

In 1940, "Andre" and "Edith"

CONTINUATION OF THE COMPACT
SECOND GRAND SEASON OF THE
BARNUM AND LONDON SHOWS UNITED

WITH HIPPODROME AND
MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS ADDED.

THE WORLD RANSACKED FOR ALL ITS WONDERS

21 BIG ELEPHANTS

10 LIVING GIRAFFES

2 WONDERFUL BABY ELEPHANTS

MORE ANIMALS EXHIBITED. MORE HORSES USED.
MORE PEOPLE EMPLOYED. MORE CURIOSITIES SHOWN.
MORE YARDS OF CANVAS SPREAD. MORE MATERIAL PARADE.
MORE CIRCUS GIVEN. MORE HIPPODROME DISPLAYS.
AND MORE CAPITAL INVESTED IN AMERICA
IF THEY WERE PUT TOGETHER.

DAILY EXCURSIONS ON ALL RAILROADS



The 1882 herald of the Barnum & London show advertised 10 living giraffes. They are shown on the front side of the herald. Pfening Collection.

The calf was expected in January, 1934. This female may well have been one of the Ringling-Barnum animals on loan to the New York Zoological Park. According to one rather amazing report this animal, "Jenny," had been with Ringling-Barnum for thirteen years and at the zoo for eleven years.⁸⁵ "Jenny" was exhibited on the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus for the rest of the 1933 season and on January 17, in the seal barn at Peru quarters, gave birth to a female calf which was named, "Helen." In the spring of 1934, while loading for the Chicago

date, "Jenny" was injured so severely that she died. The calf was taken on tour instead. In early 1935 this youngster developed a bad knee and she and her keeper were left at the Highland Park Zoo, Pittsburgh, when Hagenbeck-Wallace arrived in that city.⁸⁶ She died at the zoo on May 19. However, she had been replaced by a young male named "Jimmy" who finished the season. In February, 1936, this animal was shipped from Peru to the Ringling-Barnum quarters.⁸⁷

The John Robinson Circus, in spite of its lack of success with the two giraffes in 1927, had carried this species on tours to the west coast in the previous century. In 1882, 1887, and 1890 this circus advertised a giraffe in its menagerie and in 1888 a giraffe survived the wreck of the show train in Ohio.⁸⁸ In the early spring of 1904, the Robinson Show received a young giraffe from the Hagenbeck Wild Animal Company in Germany.⁸⁹

Still another circus, Forepaugh-Sells, on tour in 1906, advertised a giraffe in its menagerie while the Bostock Animal Show at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, New York, contained two giraffes in 1901.⁹⁰

In recent years several circuses have carried a giraffe either as a pit show or in the menagerie. Among those that come to mind are Tony Diano's giraffe which was exhibited on several shows; a reticulated giraffe on the Cristiani Circus; Al G.

This interesting illustration is from the 1885 courier published by the Van Amburgh-Charles Reiche show. Hyatt Frost manager. Pfening Collection.

Kelly and Miller Bros. Circus which exhibited a giraffe for over a decade; and the Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus.

In conclusion, a few generalizations may be drawn from the research that has been the background for this paper. Most articles about giraffes in the United States have been based on the records of zoological parks which first displayed this animal in 1874. It is a fact that the early menageries brought this interesting species to the American public over three decades before zoos ever displayed a giraffe. These menagerie proprietors not only had giraffes on exhibit but transported them widely throughout the known area of the United States - from Maine to Georgia; from the Atlantic to the Mississippi Basin.

There is no doubt that a large number of giraffes has left Africa intended for menageries and zoos in the Western Hemisphere and that many have perished during the voyage. In addition, it can be stated that the length of life of a giraffe on an American circus, with the exception of a very few individuals, has been extremely short compared to that of zoo animals.

While the birth of a giraffe in a zoological park is not an uncommon event, it is remarkable that the Barnum & Bailey Circus and the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows were so successful in breeding giraffes. With the constant loading and unloading, the erratic movements of the circus train, and variable weather conditions, it is an amazing fact that these giraffe mothers were able to carry the calf during the entire pregnancy.

In conclusion, as is usual with cir-





The Ringling Bros. first advertised their giraffe around 1893, this 1895 herald shows the animal in its open top cage. Pfening Collection.

cus history, much more work should be accomplished with this topic in order to complete the story. The activities of John Clayton need to be completely researched and evaluated; the details of the Van Amburgh giraffe, or giraffes, need further exploration; the source of Driesbach's specimen needs to be located; and the Barnum & London experiment with giraffes as lead stock should be substantiated. These are a few of the items that would help to complete the story of the giraffe with the circus menagerie.

The writer wishes to acknowledge

By 1902 the Ringlings were advertising "the one and only giraffe known to exist in the entire world." This was a rather wild statement. Pfening Collection.

RINGLING BROTHERS

THE ONE AND ONLY **GIRAFFE** KNOWN TO EXIST ENTIRE WORLD.

SECURED AT THE COST OF A FORTUNE SHOWN AT EACH EXHIBITION OF THE LARGEST MENAGERIE ON EARTH.

LAST OF HIS KIND.

HUMAN EYES WILL NEVER BEHOLD ANOTHER.

A STUPENDOUS NEW CONSOLIDATION

The Supreme Victor in Every Contest.

THE INVINCIBLE MONARCH OF THE AMUSEMENT WORLD.

THE LARGEST COMBINED SHOWS ON THE ENTIRE EARTH.

1000 People. 500 Horses. 3 Big Rings. 8 Stages. 1/2 Mile Race Track. 30 Elephants. 5 Railroad Trains. 65 Long Cars. 220 Wagons, Chariots and Cages. 20 Big Pavilion Tents, covering 12 Acres of Ground. THE LARGEST TENTS IN THE WORLD. Capital Invested, \$2,700,000. Actual Daily Expense, \$5,000.

TREMENDOUS \$1,000,000 Street Carnival!

AND BIG NEW PARK AT 10 O'CLOCK EVERY DAY!

the invaluable assistance given by Richard Conover, Richard Reynolds, and Betty King (Librarian at the Hertzberg Collection) since this project was first started nearly five years ago. It should also be mentioned that an excellent statement concerning the Clayton-Welch and the Zoological Institute giraffe-collecting expeditions to Africa has been written by Richard W. Flint and was published in *Bandwagon*, Sept.-Oct. 1970. While this account is part of a larger article dealing with the early activities of Rufus Welch, it remains the best material that has been published on these giraffes.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Lee S. Crandall, *Management of Wild Mammals in Captivity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964) p. 607.
- ² *Ibid.*, p. 608.
- ³ *Ibid.*, p. 608.
- ⁴ Correspondence between Richard Conover and Richard Reynolds, 1968; Richard Conover discussion, November 1, 1970.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁶ Sturtevant, *White Tops*, February, 1931.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁹ Dan Harkins Diary, October 24, 1926; May 18, 1925; March 31, 1936.
- ¹⁰ Harkins Dairy, September 13, 1926.
- ¹¹ Harkins Dairy, June 12, 1927.
- ¹² Harkins Dairy, June 1, 1928.
- ¹³ Harkins Dairy, May 23, 1934.
- ¹⁴ Harkins Dairy, June 21, 1935.
- ¹⁵ Harkins Dairy, June 27, 1936.
- ¹⁶ C. A. Sprinagle, *The Book of the Giraffe* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1968) p. 94.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 97.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 96.
- ¹⁹ Crandall, p. 613.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 613.
- ²¹ *Billboard*, January 29, 1910, p. 20; February 12, 1910, p. 18.

Mary and John were the two giraffes carried by the John Robinson Circus in 1927. Pfening Collection.

- ²² *White Tops*, February, 1931; *Billboard*, February 5, 1916.
- ²³ Richard Conover discussion, November 1, 1970.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*
- ²⁵ *The National Intelligencer*, Washington, D. C., Nov. 3, 1838; *The Pennsylvanian*, Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 11, 1838.
- ²⁶ *True American*, New Orleans, La., Dec. 3, 1838; *Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Mississippi Gazette*, January 18, 1839.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*
- ²⁸ Louisville (Kentucky) *Journal*, April 26, 1839.
- ²⁹ *The Georgian*, Savannah, Georgia, January 26, 1839.
- ³⁰ Sturtevant, *White Tops*, February, 1931.
- ³¹ Louisville (Kentucky) *Journal*, August 21, 1840; Selma, Alabama *Free Press*, November 28, 1840.
- ³² Richard Conover letter to Richard Reynolds, May 14, 1968.
- ³³ *Ibid.*
- ³⁴ Richard Conover discussion, November 1, 1970.
- ³⁵ Advertisement from Newark, New Jersey, May 7-8, 1839.
- ³⁶ George C. D. Odell, *Annals of the New York Stage* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1925) IV, p. 324.
- ³⁷ For Newark see above; Springfield (Massachusetts) *Republican*, May 25, 1839; Albany (New York) *Daily Argus*, June 10, 1839; Rochester (New York) *Daily Sun*, August 17, 1839.
- ³⁸ Richard Conover; Newark (New Jersey) *Daily Advertiser*, June 4, 1841; Richard W. Flint, "Rufus Welch: America's Pioneer Circus Showman." *Bandwagon*, Sept.-Oct., 1970, p. 7.
- ³⁹ Portland (Maine) *Daily Eastern Argus*, May 22, 1841.
- ⁴⁰ Route Book of Western Division Messrs. June, Titus, Angevine & Co., Menagerie & Circus, 1842 (copy in Conover collection).
- ⁴¹ Rochester (New York) *Daily Democrat*, September 20, 1842.
- ⁴² Rochester (New York) *Daily Advertiser*, July 17, 1840.
- ⁴³ *Banner Line*, March 15, 1863.
- ⁴⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁵ Rochester (New York) *Daily Advertiser*, July 17, 1840; Coburg (Ontario) *Star* (as cited in Chindahl, *History of the Circus in America*, p. 76).
- ⁴⁶ *Vermont Mercury*, Woodstock (Vermont), October 2, 1840.
- ⁴⁷ Rochester (New York) *Daily Advertiser*, July 12, 1850.
- ⁴⁸ Towanda (Pennsylvania) *The Bradford Reporter*, May 12, 1855; Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) *Patriot and Union*, September 29, 1855.
- ⁴⁹ Jefferson City (Missouri) *Inquirer*, April 18, 1857, reproduced in *Bandwagon*, Sept.-Oct., 1965.
- ⁵⁰ Utica (New York) *Telegraph*, October 16, 1863.



- ⁵¹ Utica (New York) *Evening Telegraph*, May 1865; Rochester (New York) *Union and Advertiser*, June 27, 1865; letter to author from Richard Reynolds, August 25, 1969.
- ⁵² Waltham (Massachusetts) *Free Press*, June 19, 1868; Rochester (New York) *Union and Advertiser*, July 15, 1869.
- ⁵³ Sturtevant, *White Tops*, February, 1931.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁵ San Francisco (California) *Daily Morning Call*, March 28, 1875.
- ⁵⁶ Napa (California) *Register*, May 7, 1875; Bakersfield (California) *Southern Californian and Kern County Weekly Courier*, June 29, 1876; San Louis Obispo (California) *Tribune*, July 29, 1876; Rochester (New York) *Union and Advertiser*, September 15, 1875; to name only a few.
- ⁵⁷ Bakersfield (California) *Southern Californian and Kern County Weekly Courier*, September 14, 1876.
- ⁵⁸ Odell, vol. V, p. 330.
- ⁵⁹ Chicago, (Illinois) *The Chicago Tribune*, September 19, 1872.
- ⁶⁰ Sturtevant, *White Tops*, February, 1931.
- ⁶¹ *Ibid.* (Date in article is to be questioned); *New York Clipper*, December 18, 1897.
- ⁶² *Billboard*, April 2, 1904.
- ⁶³ *Billboard*, January 29, 1910, p. 20; February 12, 1910, p. 18.
- ⁶⁴ Sturtevant, *White Tops*, February, 1931; *Billboard*, February 5, 1916.
- ⁶⁵ *White Tops*, Dec. 1940-January 1941; *Bandwagon*, May-June, 1966, p. 16; Bakersfield (California) *Kern County Californian*, September 25, 1886.
- ⁶⁶ Digest by Bob Taber of Los Angeles newspaper articles, August 1885.
- ⁶⁷ *Bandwagon*, May-June, 1966, 1.16.
- ⁶⁸ *White Tops*, July-August, 1933; Ringling courier for 1895; Ringling Bros. circus route book for 1895-1896.
- ⁶⁹ Ringling Bros. circus route book, 1901.
- ⁷⁰ Richard Reynolds, letter February 3, 1969.
- ⁷¹ *Billboard*, March 19, 1910, p. 18; letter from Richard Reynolds, Feb. 3, 1969.
- ⁷² Photos taken by Olga Celeste, 1923; *Billboard*, April 12, 1924.
- ⁷³ *Billboard*, August 2, 1924.
- ⁷⁴ *Billboard*, January 8, 1927; *Billboard*, February 19, 1927.
- ⁷⁵ Crandall, p. 611.
- ⁷⁶ *White Tops*, Aug.-Sept., 1932; Richard Reynolds letter Feb. 3, 1969.
- ⁷⁷ Dan Harkins Diary, May 4, 1937.
- ⁷⁸ Pasadena *Star News*, April 10, 1940; Richard Reynolds letter Feb. 3, 1969.
- ⁷⁹ *Billboard*, September 5, 1942, p. 48.
- ⁸⁰ *White Tops*, May-June 1946.
- ⁸¹ Dyer Reynolds interview, May 26, 1968.
- ⁸² Dyer Reynolds interview; Richard Reynolds letter, Feb. 3, 1969.
- ⁸³ *Billboard*, June 30, 1928; August 4, 1928.
- ⁸⁴ *White Tops*, July-August, 1933; *Billboard*, December 2, 1933, p. 45.
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁸⁶ *Billboard*, January 27, 1934; February 3, 1934; March 24, 1934, p. 37 and 53; *White Tops*, March-April, 1958; Parks & Recreation, June-July, 1935, pp. 428 and 488; *Billboard*, June 1, 1935.
- ⁸⁷ *Billboard*, February 15, 1936, p. 37.
- ⁸⁸ Bakersfield (California) *Kern County Californian*, August 26, 1882; Pasadena (California) *Weekly Union*, October 1, 1887; Los Angeles, October 2, 1890.
- ⁸⁹ Richard Conover
- ⁹⁰ *White Tops*, Sept.-Oct., 1954.

ROSTER MAILED

The 1972 CHS members roster was mailed early in October, going to all members as of that date.

If you have not received your copy by now, please write the CHS secretary Julian Jimenez.

The roster has been in preparation since April, and the members listed are as of that date. Those becoming members since that date are not listed. However address changes were made as late as July of this year.



Soudana, the Ringling Barnum giraffe is shown in the backyard following the spec in 1938. This is the only modern day giraffe to be halter broken. Burt Wilson Photo.

WANT PHOTOS

I am restoring an old Ticket Wagon, and am looking for photos of Ticket Wagons which were on the following circuses:

Fred Buchanan's Yankee Robinson Circus (circa 1920) (Not the bird cage wagon).

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Howes Great London 1922

Lee Bros. 1925-26

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Trouping THE CANEBRAKES of Louisiana in the Wintertime with The Star Green Amusement Company & Circus

Some of the grandest and greatest also happiest trouping I did was Down Yonder in the Cajun country of Louisiana in the winter of 1925-26.

Of course at that time I was a very young gensel and when a fella is young everything looks great to him.

I was on the ruff hustle this winter, writing sheet and we were playing the smack to one and all, while we were playing at a very lary celebration celebration in Jena Louisiana, which was a real blank, I ran into an old time Circus Lucky Boy by the name of Harry Burk, who had made a lot of money running gambling houses in Eldorado and Smackover, Arkansas during the oil boom there, and Harry said that he would like to get back in the circus biz as he was getting bored doing nothing.

In Jena we met a Carnie who had a corn game or as it is now called Bingo and he was empty as a Hoot Owl after partaking of a coupla Feenamints, so we propositioned him about buying his BINGO top. As this fella was from Chicago and being empty he was ready to listen, so we bought it at a bargain. No doubt this carnie thought about those chilly winds blowing off of Lake Michigan at the coming winter.

We also bought all of the aluminum ware that he had used as prizes more on this later.

The Bingo top was to become the BIG TOP OF THE STAR GREEN AMUSEMENT COMPANY & CIRCUS.

Next we ran an ad in THE BILLBOARD for a Punch worker who did magic also, a one man band - a man and wife team that worked on the ground and any other useful people who could work on the ground. I had met a very nice looking young gal who was slinging hash in a Jena cafe, who I joined her out to work the cooch and what a gal she turned out to be and she sure learned quick for a 1st of May gal. Her name was Lilli which was perfect for the HOOTCHIE KOOTCHIE dep't.

A fella and his wife who had been with Elmer Jones 3 car Turkey joined out, he did contortion, barrel spining and his wife did juggling, we also doubled 'em as talking clowns, we called him "Hoppe The Frog Boy" (how many Hoppies there have been) As this fella was a pretty fair spieler we had him do the candy pitch with Mother Murrays Famous Confection. Old Dick Weston who had been with Arthur Hoffman on the Hagenbeck Show joined out doing Punch & Judy and he also did magic.

A fella from Chicago a former prize fighter named Danny Kilian but now a circus Lucky Boy and myself played a joint.

I also ran the Cooch blow-off-did what fixing there was to do and also helped

By C.A. "RED" Sonnenberg

with the candy pitch and made myself generally useful.

We charged a half a clatter a rattle admission and got the same for the cooch blow-off.

We opened in a wagon rut in the road, called Mississippi Plantation, Wildsville, Louisiana, which only had a Company store, a sawmill and the Plantation.

We played mostly plantations and sawmill towns or I should really say villages. We had no agent and put up no paper, when we got to a spot, we just squatted at places like Wisner, Gilbert, Newellton, Waterproof (this is the village where General Chenault of the FLYING TIGER fame of World War II came from) Jena, Morganza, Ferriday Clayton Junction, St. Joseph, Jonesville, Manifest, Sicily Island (at Sicily Island, Zack Miller of the 101 Ranch show had a ranch where he raised cattle) Vidalia, Olla, Opelousas, Lecomte at Jonesville a coupla years later we came back here and played *NUTS and Broads (*Shell game and Three Card Monte) with the head bootlegger of Concordia Parish doing the fixing.

In Sicily Island we joined a fella from Zack Millers ranch who had a trained pig, I told Harry if things got tuff we could eat the pig.

Most of the sawmills and plantations paid off their hands in Brozine (company

The author C. A. "RED" Sonnenberg is pictured with his good friend David "Deacon" Blanchfield in Baraboo, Wisconsin, in 1968.



money) I wonder how many troupers know or remember about this. We would take the Brozine to the Company office and they would give us dollar for dollar for it, but if the hands wanted to get some good old USA money the Company discounted it. We usually played a town for a coupla days but in Ferriday we played for two weeks as the pickins was very good there.

When we played places like Rayville, Tallulah, Winsboro etc; we were really playing the metropolitan cities, which had a population of several thousand - most of the places we played would only have a few hundred. We had no seats nor did we need any.

Later in the winter we ran into a colored minstrel show, that was stranded and outa stuff, in other words it was completely tapioca, it was run by a fella named Col. Bill Coley, it featured a colored gentleman named "SWEET PAPA SNOWBALL" he called it THE DIXIE COLORED MINSTRALS. The colonel played the part of the old time showman to the hilt, he wore a big skimmer, a red vest with a big block and chain with a big billican lions claw on the chain, he was wearing a full box cut fiddle and flute, in other words the Colonel had just about everything but money.

So we joined out his troupe, he had an old clunker of a truck that he used to carry the top and also the performers, it was quite a sight to see it arrive in town, oh yes before I forget the Colonel had a clubfoot.

Before playing Ferriday, which was a real wild and wooly wide open town where everything went, a coupla days before I went there to look the situation over and stayed at the only hotel in town and just after checking out it caught fire and burned to the ground with 8 people getting burned to death.

So we brought our aggregation in and played where the hotel had been and stayed for two weeks, we also joined out another broken down showman who had a Ferris Wheel or a SIMP HOISTER with OLLIE POLK and his wife Bessie joining out, Ollie working a DROP CASE and Bessie with her gaffed SET JOINT (both gambling devices) both of 'em being old time circus foids, Bessie broke in the circus biz a long time ago as a Cooch dancer with the HOWES GREAT LONDON CIRCUS now with a few miles on her so running a joing, as she could no longer shake it up for the boys. Ollie came from a small village in Mississippi called SOSO. I never spread to the town clown (The Town Marshall) about the joints if I did I only said that we had a few games where the folks could win a coupla seegars.

Ollie being a Mississippi cat himself if

any one got outa line, he could always handle the situation himself, many a time some Lob would pull a roscoe on him (pistol) and Ollie would wind up beating the Lob for it fair and square, for awhile we had so many roscoes that we looked like an armed camp.

When the Outside Man would lug some Lob to the lot, Ollie would be waiting behind his trap and greet 'em with "Come on in fellas and win a couple seegars" it was something like the spider saying Good Morning to Mister Fly.

So we were getting to be quite an aggregation, at our Sat. night towns they would be 5 or 6 sheetwriters and two or three Jam Pitchmen working, so things would be really jumping in those small villages that winter in Louisiana. Lilli our Cooch dancer was one of the best troupers that I ever met as she never beefed about a thing, when I would start to make the blow-off pitch - I would say all the men over this way while the ladies and children are being entertained by THE OLD TIME LONDON PUNCH & JUDY.

I would drape Lilli in a big white sheet and then ask her what she was gonna do with the sheet when she got inside and she would I am gonna take it all off - of course when she got rid of the sheet she would have more clothes underneath that it would taken an upholsterer to undress her. But she sure could do the HOOTCHIE KOOTCHIE, THE GIDDY GLIDE and THE ROOTIE TOOTIE and shake her belly like a bowl of jelly on a cold and frosty morn.

This aluminum ware that we bought when we bought the Bingo top we used as prizes on COUNTRY STORE night, in Ferriday we called it an OLD TIMER OIL WORKERS REUNION and HOLIDAY FUN FESTIVAL as it was during the holidays, they had a coupla wild cat wells being drilled in order to sell stock to the Lobs who would listen to their pitch.

It didn't take much to fix in those days, in January we ran into a coupla weeks of rain, by now a grease joint had joined out and again the colored minstrel show performers were on reduced rations, pancakes three times a day with some sow belly for toppings - and all of the pecans that they could pick, as the surrounding woods were full of pecan trees. But then the sun started to shine on both sides of the fence again as it always does, so again we looked like THE COMING BARNUMS.

Then towards spring with the birdies chirping, first our minstrel show left to join a Carnie, then our beloved cooch dancer Lilli fell in love with some gunsels from Villa Platte, LILLI was one of the nicest persons that I have ever met, never beefing about a thing, so we gave her a big send off to get married, I never saw her again, but for over 25 years at Christmas I would get a card from her care The Billboard, Cincinnati, Ohio, saying that all was lovely with her.

Danny Kilian left to join the Christy Bros. Circus in Beaumont Texas, Ollie and Bessie Polk left to join the Gentry Bros.

Circus and my partner Harry Burk went to N'leans.

We sold our big top the late BINGO TOP to a fella with the Miller Bros. Carnie and thus ended the saga of THE STAR GREEN AMUSEMENT COMPANY & CIRCUS.

We made some money and had many a laff (which counted more than money when a fella is young) so far as I was concerned it was one of the nicest trouping that I have ever did.

In those days in the Canebrake country of Louisianan in the wintertime, just about every town that we made, no matter how small, with THE STAR GREEN AMUSEMENT COMPANY & CIRCUS, you would find fella's LAYING THE NOTE, PLAYING THE SMACK, WORKING TH SHIVE and not to forget while riding the trains, "What is that over there partner? A white buffalo," and also on the trains the NEWS BUTCHER who know the score, would cut up a little cake and I don;t mean the ANGEL FOOD kind, he also would drop many a package on the unsuspectin Lobs that would be riding that day. (*All short con games) There would be plenty of sheet-writers working *glims and maps. (*Eye Glasses) all they were reading glasses, but you could not do it now. Not many trouper now adays know anything about all of this, not many.

One thing about THE STAR GREEN AMUSEMENT COMPANY & CIRCUS we didn't have to brag about protecting our paper, as we didn't have any paper in advance. Another worry we eliminated by not having any billing, it didn't give the natives a chance to see and check whether we had everything that we advertised.

Several years after our Tour D'Force with THE STAR GREEN Amusement Company & Circus, an interesting side-light happened, while I was working in THE MENS STORE of Carson-Pirie and Scott one of the better men's store in Chicago. One day around the holidays, I had a leady customer who purchased quite a lot of haberdasnery, who said that she wanted it sent to a plantation in Louisiana, who I had no doubt never heard of, I said "Madam! I have been around quite a bit, what is the name of this place in Louisiana"? and she said "Mississippi Plantation Wildville Louisiana" which was where we opened with The Star Green

Amusement Company & Circus when I mentioned that, she said that she remembered that very well and then said "they will never believe this when I tell them back home", it is a very small world after all".

A few years later we came back to Wildsville, as there was a ferry landing there, we *Tossed Broads and played NUTS (*Three Card Monte and the Shell game) while the passengers were waiting for the ferry.

The head bootlegger of Concordia Parish where the ferry landing was did the fixing for us, which wasn't much, as he enjoyed watching us work. While we worked the ferry landing, we lived in the bootleggers home, which we called THE HOUSE OF DOORS as it had nothing but doors 3 or 4 in a room, what for I never did learn.

Every night as we sat around the fire place, he would play the victrola, but he only played one record over and over, which was THE PRISONERS SONG, he played it so damn much that we almost got stir crazy.

But when he got into a ruckus with the town marshall in Jonesville which was across the river from our spot, he shot the marshall right between the eyes (he was later acquitted on the grounds of self defense) but things for awhile were pretty warm, so we took it ON THE ARTHUR DUFFY, I joining the Walter L. Main Circus and my partner Harry Burk retiring on his laurels in N'Leans.

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